

**Remarks**

Claims 1-26 are pending in the application. All claims stand rejected. By this paper, claims 1 and 26 have been amended. Claims 8-12 have been canceled.

Claims 1-7, 9, and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Specifically, the Examiner refers to the phrase, "adding a normalization amount," indicating that the specification describes normalization as "subtracting." The applicants have amended claim 1 to recite "subtracting a normalization amount," as suggested by the Examiner, to make claim 1 consistent with apparatus claim 13. However, the applicants respectfully point out that adders are commonly used for subtraction. As explained in page 55 of the specification:

[s]ince the addition of the branch metric to the accumulator potentially includes a normalization amount, the branch metric provided to the ACS unit 1320 may be a negative number represented in 2's complement form. To ensure proper arithmetic, in one embodiment, the 17 bit accumulator value, and the 7 bit branch metric are both sign-extended to 8 bits before being provided to the ACS adders 1630, 1635.

The applicants have canceled claim 9 and submit that the Section 112 rejection directed thereto has been obviated. In addition, the applicants have amended 26 to depend from claim 25 rather than claim 18, as suggested by the Examiner.

The applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 1-7 would be allowable to overcome the Section 112 rejections, and that claims 13-25 are allowable as originally-filed.

In light of the foregoing amendments, all claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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